

Message Text

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FOR CARTER FROM PA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT NEW YORK TIMES BY-LINER BY WIL-
LIAM E. FARRELL, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, HEADED "DAYAN
SAYS ISRAELIS MIGHT AGREE TO PARTITION OCCUPIED WEST
BANK."
 2. JERUSALEM, DEC. 12--FOREIGN MINISTER MOSHE DAYAN
SAID TODAY THAT ISRAEL MIGHT AGREE TO PARTITION THE
LANDS OF THE WEST BANK OF THE JORDAN RIVER IF THAT
WAS WHAT THE ARABS WANTED.
 3. MR. DAYAN NOTED, HOWEVER, AT A NEWS CONFERENCE WITH
FOREIGN REPORTERS, THAT A PARTITION SOLUTION TO ONE OF
THE MAJOR OBSTACLES TO A MIDDLE EAST PEACE HAD NEVER
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- BEEN ADVANCED BY THE ARABS AND WAS NOT CONSIDERED A
WORKABLE SOLUTION BY ISRAEL.
4. BUT, HE SAID, IF IT WERE BROUGHT JP AT THE CAIRO
TALKS SCHEDULED TO OPEN WEDNESDAY, "WE SHALL SIT DOWN
OPENMINDED AND LISTEN TO IT AND SEE. MAYBE WE WILL
AGREE THIS IS THE BEST SOLUTION AND WE SHALL ACCEPT

IT."

5. THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT A MAJOR OFFICIAL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF PRIME MINISTER MENAHEM BEGIN HAD PUBLICLY DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF PARTITIONING THE ISRAELI-OCCUPIED WEST BANK, WHICH WAS CAPTURED DURING THE 1967 WAR.

6. (IN AMMAN, JORDAN, KING HUSSEIN, AFTER CONFERRING WITH SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS R. VANCE, SAID THAT JORDAN STILL WOULD NOT ATTEND THE PEACE TALKS IN CAIRO, BUT HE LEFT OPEN A STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT "AT A LATER STAGE, POSSIBLY GENEVA," HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD JOIN NEGOTIATIONS ON AN OVERALL ARAB-ISRAELI SETTLEMENT. PAGE 3. IN RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA, THE GOVERNMENT AFFIRMED THAT RESTORATION OF EAST JERUSALEM TO JORDAN-
IAN CONTROL REMAINED ONE OF THE "MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE ENTIRE ARAB WORLD." PAGE 5.)

7. MR. DAYAN SAID HE THOUGHT THAT PRESIDENT ANWAR EL-SADAT OF EGYPT HAD TO "DELIVER SOMETHING" WITHIN A WEEK OR TEN DAYS AFTER THE CAIRO TALKS OPENED.

8. A FEW DAYS AGO, MR. SADAT SAID IN AN INTERVIEW IN CAIRO THAT HE HAD SOME NEW INITIATIVES IN MIND BUT GAVE NO DETAILS. THE COMMENTS FROM THE TWO LEADERS INTEN-
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SIFIED SPECULATION HERE THAT CONSIDERABLE GROUNDWORK HAD QUIETLY TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN THE EGYPTIANS AND THE ISRAELIS AND THAT SOME SORT OF EARLY BREAKTHROUGH MIGHT OCCUR AT THE CAIRO CONFERENCE.

9. "I THINK THAT PRESIDENT SADAT IS EXPECTED BY HIS OWN PEOPLE AND BY HIS VERY OWN MOVES TO DELIVER SOMETHING WITHIN A WEEK OR TEN DAYS," MR. DAYAN SAID.

10. HE DID NOT ELABORATE ON WHAT HE THOUGHT THE EGYPTIAN LEADER MIGHT DO.

11. IN DISCUSSING THE POSSIBILITY OF A WEST BANK PARTITION, MR. DAYAN DID NOT DEAL IN SPECIFICS, SUCH AS BORDERS OR BOUNDARIES, AND HE REITERATED ISRAEL'S OPPOSITION TO THE CREATION OF A SEPARATE PALESTINIAN STATE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND JORDAN.

12. THE FOREIGN MINISTER DID SAY THAT EXISTING ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS ON THE WEST BANK SHOULD NOT POSE AN OBSTACLE TO DECIDING ON BOUNDARIES. "THE NEGOTIATION WILL NOT BE OVER THE SETTLEMENTS," MR. DAYAN SAID,

BUT ON THE LINE."

13. WHILE HE WAS CLEARLY NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT A PARTITION SOLUTION --I NEVER THOUGHT REALLY IT WAS A WORKABLE SOLUTION," HE SAID--MR. DAYAN NEVERTHELESS BROUGHT IT UP AS A POSSIBLE OPTION TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE CAIRO TALKS IF THE ARABS DECIDED TO RAISE THE ISSUE. "IT'S NOT EXCLUDED," HE SAID.

14. SOME OBSERVERS HERE WONDERED WHETHER MR. DAYAN WAS SIGNALING BOTH THE ARABS AND THE ISRAELIS THAT THE WAY OUT OF THE IMPASSE ON THE WEST BANK MIGHT BE IN A SOLUTION THAT NEITHER SIDE PARTICULARLY LIKED.
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15. ON REPORTS THAT HE AND MR. BEGIN HAD BEEN AT ODDS RECENTLY OVER TACTICS AND STRATEGY CONCERNING THE TALKS WITH THE EGYPTIANS, MR. DAYAN SAID:

16. "I CAN'T THINK OF ANY SUBJECT ON WHICH WE HAD A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION. I ACCEPT THE PRIME MINISTER'S RULING."

17. ASKED ABOUT WHETHER THE MIDDLE-LEVEL DELEGATION THAT ISRAEL IS SENDING TO OPEN THE CAIRO TALKS MIGHT BE RAISED TO A HIGHER LEVEL, MR. DAYAN SAID THAT AT PRESENT THE EGYPTIANS DID NOT WANT "ANY ELEVATION OF THE DELEGATION."

18. EVENTUALLY, HE SAID, THE LEVEL MIGHT WELL BE RAISED. "I'M NOT SURE THEY HAVE IN MIND ONLY THE FOREIGN MINISTER," MR. DAYAN SAID. "MAYBE THEY HAVE IN MIND THE PRIME MINISTER IN DIRECT TALKS WITH PRESIDENT SADAT."

19. MR. DAYAN SAID HE WAS UNCERTAIN WHETHER OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES WOULD EVENTUALLY JOIN THE CAIRO TALKS AND HE REAFFIRMED ISRAEL'S WILLINGNESS TO MAKE A SEPARATE PEACE WITH EGYPT, ALTHOUGH MR. SADAT HAS SAID THIS IS NOT HIS AIM.

20. ANALYSTS HERE, BOTH ISRAELI AND DIPLOMATIC, TEND TO FEEL THAT JORDAN WILL EVENTUALLY JOIN THE CAIRO TALKS AND THAT SYRIA--THE MOST ADAMANTLY OPPOSED OF THE SO-CALLED CONFRONTATION STATES TO THE CAIRO CONFERENCE--MIGHT TAKE PART IN TALKS AT GENEVA, IF AND WHEN THEY ARE RECONVENED.
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21. "WE FEEL BOTH EGYPT AND ISRAEL CAN REACH A PEACE AGREEMENT WHICH IS REALLY ENCOURAGING," MR. DAYAN SAID. "IT GIVES GROUND FOR JUSTIFIED OPTIMISM."

22. ASKED IF ISRAEL OUGHT TO MAKE A CONCESSION TO EGYPT, IN THE WAKE OF MR. SADAT'S HISTORIC VISIT TO ISRAEL AND AS PART OF MR. DAYAN'S CALL FOR KEEPING THE MOMENTUM GOING THAT THE VISIT GENERATED, THE FOREIGN MINISTER REPLIED:

23. "SIR, WE HAVE TO DECIDE ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY. IT'S NOT A BIRTHDAY PARTY THAT YOU GIVE GIFTS. WE ARE DISCUSSING THE PERMANENT BOUNDARIES OF OUR COUNTRY--WHAT IT IS WE'LL LOOK LIKE."

24. ASKED WHETHER THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT WOULD ALLOW WEST BANK MAYORS AND OTHER ARAB OFFICIALS TO REPRESENT THE PALESTINIANS AT NEGOTIATIONS, MR. DAYAN SAID, "IT WOULD BE PERFECTLY ALL RIGHT WITH US."

25. MANY WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP OFFICIALS HAVE VISITED CAIRO RECENTLY AND MR. SADAT HAS STUDIOUSLY AVOIDED PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION, WHICH IS ANATHEMA TO ISRAEL.

26. MR. SADAT HAS ALSO REFRAINED IN RECENT DAYS FROM MENTIONING A PALESTINIAN STATE, USING INSTEAD THE TERMS FAVORED BY PRESIDENT CARTER, "HOMELAND" AND "ENTITY."

27. MR. DAYAN REAFFIRMED ISRAEL'S REFUSAL TO DEAL WITH THE P.L.O., SINCE ITS COVENANT CALLS FOR THE DEMISE OF THE JEWISH STATE. ISRAEL HAS LONG SHUNNED THE NOTION OF A PALESTINIAN STATE, CONTENDING THAT IT WOULD BE A CONSTANT THREAT TO ISRAEL'S SECURITY.

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